



# Alderman Joe Dudzik

11th District

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## Dear Constituents,

As we prepare for another Wisconsin winter, we do so with a solid 2011 budget in place and some new developments in the 11th District. In this newsletter, you'll read about ways to strengthen our community through our continued commitment to neighborhood groups and block watches, you'll read about the 2011 budget and the issues the city faces regarding state shared revenue, property taxes and the other economic variables Milwaukee struggles with.

You'll also notice that there continues to be new development in the 11th District, such as ITT Tech's school and their new campus. Located in an unused, vacant space, the school offers degree options in many contemporary technologies.

This newsletter hosts discussions on how to keep our neighborhoods safe and how you are an essential part of that effort. But, keeping the streets clear of snow is also before us and there are tips and reminders here regarding snow shoveling and the rules of plowing operations.

I wish you a safe and warm holiday season and encourage you to be sure and see the city's Christmas tree in Red Arrow Park – the fourth tree in recent years chosen from District 11!

**Joe Dudzik**  
Alderman, 11th District



## New Garbage Cart Policies

Waste reduction works! More and more people find they no longer need two or more garbage carts because they're doing an effective job of recycling and generating less garbage. If you have an extra cart, please call **286-CITY (2489)** or fill out an online service request and we'll collect it. One of the changes brought about by this year's budget, however, includes a \$20 annual fee for every extra garbage cart you'd like added to your residence. The Sanitation Division repairs broken carts. Call **286-CITY (2489)** or fill out an online service request to have your cart picked up for repair or replacement.

City of Milwaukee garbage and recycling collectors and their safety committee ask for your help during snowy winter months. Make sure your garbage and recycling carts aren't frozen or buried in snow and that there's a clear path through the snow to the carts.

## 2011 Christmas Tree Cutting from District 11...Again

This year, the city's Department of Public Works has again chosen a city Christmas tree from the 11th District. This is the fourth tree in eight years to come from the district and this year, Ms. Rada Filipovic holds the honor of having her well-groomed tree displayed at Red Arrow Park for the community during the holiday season.

Regarding the honor of having so many of his district's evergreens chosen for the city cutting, Alderman Dudzik said, "Well, it's just a sign we grow 'em straight and true in this district!"



The 2011 City of Milwaukee Christmas Tree was harvested from the 11th District and Department of Public Works staffers drove the tree up Wisconsin Ave. to its station at Red Arrow Park.



Alderman Dudzik and Mayor Barrett thank the family of Ms. Rada Filipovic, 9016 W. Verona Ct. for their contribution. The family called the city to contribute their Colorado Blue Spruce.

# 2011 City Budget: A Brighter Fiscal Future

The city budget for fiscal year 2011 includes no major service cuts and no increase in the property tax levy. Nevertheless, the overall trend over the past decade has been declines in shared revenue from the state which has led to reductions in city services.

The term “shared revenue” is perhaps misleading. It refers to the income and sales taxes that all of us pay, but that go to Madison before being distributed to local governments. So we give it to Madison before they then “share” it back with us and other cities, towns and villages.

Since 2000 the city’s share of this tax money has been reduced by over \$59 million in inflation adjusted dollars. That translates to about 10% of our annual general city operating budget. It is no coincidence that in those same years the workforce which provides city services has also been reduced by more than 11%. That means we have fewer firefighters, fewer police officers, fewer sanitation workers, fewer public health nurses and fewer librarians.

This ongoing fiscal deficit has been exacerbated by the stock market crash in 2008, and our pension system was left underfunded for the first time in more than two decades. For the 2010 city budget, we were forced to make a \$47 million payment to cover the gap, on top of our ongoing structural deficit caused primarily by the loss of shared revenue. Our best current projections indicate that, even without a future stock crash, the growing cost of pension obligations will force similarly sized payments throughout the next decade.

The city is not simply reacting to these grim external realities of funding cuts and cost increases. Internally, we are implementing austerity measures and long-term plans to create a fiscal future with stable taxes, fees, and services. These careful choices, many of which were initiated in the 2010 budget, helped make the 2011 budget more stable.

These cuts and adjustments included:

1. Management pay freezes – including all elected officials – in fiscal years 2009-2011.
2. Four furlough days for all non-emergency personnel in 2010 and 2011.
3. A new smoothing formula for pension payments – which saved us over \$40 million in 2010.

In addition, 2010 was also the beginning of several long-term plans for important city services and that plan continued to be realized in the 2011 budget:

- In response to the recent flooding and sewage overflows, we are preparing a pilot program which will allow public funding of private lateral connections to underground pipes, which could save us money in the long run, prevent basement back ups, and help clean our lake.
- We have a 5-year sanitation plan which will gradually transition all of us onto a “Pay as You Throw” garbage fee, with unlimited recycling and compost pickup. This will save us money and reduce our landfill waste.
- In order to prevent libraries from closing, we are looking at creating a new generation of mixed-use libraries, which will have more hours of service and better technology access.

# Flooding Funding

Last summer, Milwaukee homeowners dealt with the damage of near unprecedented flood waters after two dramatic rainstorms in July. As a result, Milwaukee county was declared a federal disaster area by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), but originally, FEMA was granting dollars and disaster relief funding only to agencies, not individuals.

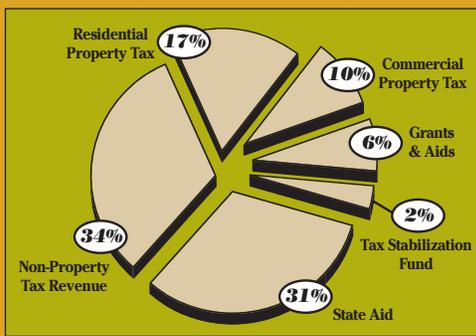
A large concerted effort was made to appeal to FEMA that the damage extended significantly to individual homes and residences, with the city launching a large canvassing campaign to solicit documentation from homes where basements were destroyed by flood waters. The result was FEMA’s declaration that funds would be available to individuals in addition to agencies to help counter the costs of the damages.

In addition to the widespread call for action related to the funding, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and DPW announced a plan in July to spend \$7 million dollars in MMSD funds and \$1 million in city dollars to fund three emergency projects to help reduce basement backups.

I’m proud of the way residents and neighbors came together to help one another during the floods. Continued action is taking place at the national and local level to help avert these crises in the future. Currently, the City of Milwaukee is applying to FEMA as part of a program that could offer our residents reduced rates on flood insurance.

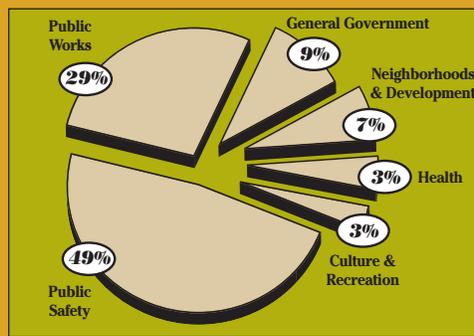
Residents should be reminded, however, that water in your basement is often a result of sewer lines and back up and homeowners should attend to the condition of their lateral sewer line extending from their home to the city system. Often roots or other debris impede the efficiency of these lines. Basement damage that is the result of sewage backups is not covered by flood insurance, so homeowners should take care to be preventative in their home maintenance.

## 2011 Budget Sources of City Revenue



Non-Property Tax Revenue (\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 291
State Aid	\$ 271
Property Taxes: Residential	\$ 149
Property Taxes: Commercial	\$ 86
Grant & Aid Projects	\$ 52
Tax Stabilization Fund (TSF)	\$ 15
<b>*Total</b>	<b>\$ 864</b>

## City Services Provided by this Revenue



Public Safety (\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 424
Public Works	\$ 248
General Government	\$ 78
Neighborhoods & Development	\$ 61
Culture & Recreation	\$ 29
Health	\$ 24
<b>*Total</b>	<b>\$ 864</b>

\*Excludes G.O. debt service paid by the City for MPS purposes.



Get Connected. Get Answers.  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

Simply call 211 to get help with life.

From a cell phone, dial 414-773-0211.  
From a pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.

## ITT Tech Moves into the District

ITT Technical Institute, part of ITT Educational Services, Inc. (“ITT/ESI”) and Daniel Webster College helps students develop skills and knowledge they can use to pursue career opportunities in a variety of fields. It owns and operates more than 125 ITT Technical Institutes and Daniel Webster College. ITT/ESI serves more than 80,000 students at its campuses in 38 states and online. Headquartered in Carmel, IN, it has been actively involved in the higher education community since 1969.

ITT Tech has moved into the 11th District and they have taken up space in a formerly vacant building. The school, located at 6817 W. Morgan Ave., will offer the same technology-based programs it is known for and the school works with the community in the delivery of some of its programs through advisory committees, composed of representatives of local businesses and employers, who periodically assess and update curricula, equipment and laboratory design.

“We welcome ITT Tech’s commitment to our area and I commend the partnership to make use of unused business spaces while building our community,” Alderman Dudzik said.



Jarvis Racine, College Director, Ewa Piotrowski, Dean of Academic Affairs and Ryan Colwin, Director of Recruitment join Alderman Dudzik in celebrating the opening of the school. ITT Technical Institute is a school that offers programs relevant to today’s unique technical careers.

## Sustainable Boulevards



Forestry Services developed Sustainable Boulevards to provide for long-term management of the boulevard system based on sound design principles and the sustainability of resources. The plan includes new grass, highly visual signature beds (pictured above) and more tree plantings. These landscape changes are coupled with an automated irrigation system to save operating costs.

## Milwaukee’s Bright Idea



Focus on Energy has partnered with the City of Milwaukee to offer Milwaukee’s energy efficiency program, Me<sup>2</sup>. The initiative is designed to help homeowners make energy efficiency improvements to their home.

The unique program includes an Energy Advocate who will work with the homeowner to navigate the process. The Advocate will do an initial walk-through of your home to check for opportunities to increase efficiency, then you’ll have a collaborative meeting with an Energy Consultant who will perform industry tests on your home like a blower door test, looking for air leaks and other inefficiencies. Once your home is assessed, the Advocate will work with you to choose an approved contractor to perform any necessary changes or repairs that would help you reap energy savings.

Energy Einstein is the Me<sup>2</sup> campaign mascot and he will be appearing in District 11 first, as our district is one of the areas the program is targeting. If you’re interested in learning more, please contact my office or attend an upcoming neighborhood association meeting! More on the program can be found at [www.smartenergypays.com](http://www.smartenergypays.com) or through my webpage. You can also go to [www.milwaukee.gov/sustainability](http://www.milwaukee.gov/sustainability) to learn about other useful energy programs that the city’s Office of Environmental Sustainability offers!

## The Scoop on Snow Removal

When a major storm occurs, it can take from 18 to 24 hours to plow all streets, depending on the severity of the storm. Sometimes plows must make four to six passes down a street to clear it curb to curb. The city tries to do this at one time so residents can shovel out driveways and sidewalks. It is best to wait, if possible, until we’ve plowed your street before shoveling out your driveway approach. It is also helpful if you pile the snow to the right side of your driveway as you face the street. This will minimize the amount of snow pushed back into the driveway approach by a plow.

Residents have 24 hours after the snow stops falling to clear snow from sidewalks. Violations reported to DPW will be inspected and incur an initial inspection fee of \$25. If the snow is not cleared after 24 hours, the city will clear it and put the costs along with a \$45 - \$90 administrative fee on the property tax bill.

Residents who own single family homes who are physically unable to clear the sidewalk in front of their home may apply to Sanitation Services for assistance with clearing the walk after a snowstorm exceeding four inches by calling **286-CITY (2489)**.



Alderman  
**Joe Dudzik**  
11th District

Visit me on the web at:  
[www.milwaukee.gov/district11](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district11)

E-mail me at:  
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## F&P Budget Meeting



Alderman Dudzik sat in as Vice Chair at a Finance and Personnel Committee hearing. After the mayor proposes his budget, committee members listen to each department's budget requests and negotiate any amendments that could improve upon the city's use of tax dollars.

## Safe Streets and Homes

A safe block is the cornerstone of thriving neighborhoods and a city that works. Block watches and neighborhood meetings are fundamental to crime prevention. Neighbors who organize around safety and communicate well are crucial in preventing crime.

My office can help link neighbors to a variety of city enforcement agencies – Police, Neighborhood Services, City Attorney – but those links are strongest when they are most direct. Get to know your neighbors, and get to know the city employees who can help keep your neighborhood safe. A safe block is an alert and organized block.

To improve safety and security in our community, the scope of solutions must also extend beyond issues of crime. A safe city has plentiful jobs, good schools and a rehabilitative system of criminal justice.

Here are some updates on actions being taken to make our community safer:

- Proactive, data-driven police deployments that prioritize beat patrols over response times to non-emergency calls
- Growth of neighborhood activism like our neighborhood groups and block watches
- Deferred Prosecutions and Neighborhood Callouts are using national best practices to solve non-violent crime with community justice instead of prison
- The Justice 2000 Drivers License Recovery Program works to ensure that unpaid parking tickets do not lead to cycles of felonies and unemployment.
- A new bicycle master plan and the traffic calming program are bringing bike lanes and speed bumps to a street near you.

Contact me if you'd like to learn more about our neighborhood organizations and block watches.

### Alderman Dudzik

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## Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule & Christmas Tree Disposal



Want to know when the next garbage pick-up day will occur? Call **286-CITY (2489)** and talk to your sanitation district's staff, and they'll estimate your next garbage and recycling pickup dates based on their current schedule status and weather forecasts.

Remember to place holiday wrapping paper, boxes, etc. in your recycling cart or in a bag next to the recycling cart.

Want to mulch that Christmas tree? Residents in the City of Milwaukee, have two options for Christmas tree disposal:

- For collection by the Sanitation crew, place your tree **where the garbage is collected**. Residents whose garbage is picked up in the alley should place their Christmas tree in the alley near the garbage cart. Residents without an alley, whose garbage cart is in their backyard, should place their tree at the curb.
- Or remove all decorations and take your tree to a Self-Help Center where it will be recycled.

Christmas trees are not considered yard waste under the State Recycling Law and may be disposed of in landfills. Therefore, trees collected with your garbage are landfilled.